

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

,CINCPAC

COGARD

GOVGUAM

CLARK AFB PI

UNCLAS STATE 059574

CLARK AF0 ATTN: PIO FOR MORTON SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 17 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. WOODCOCK MISSION ARRIVES HANOI, GREETED BY VICE FORMIN PHAN HIEN (WSTAR 3/16). NYT FRONT-PGS UPI ARRIVAL PIC SHOWING MARIAN EDELMAN GREETED BY MFA OFFICIAL; ALSO SHOWS AMB YOST/SEN MANSFIELD. WP FRONT-PGS AP STORY OF ARRIVAL, QUIET/POLITE WELCOME. REPORTS DELEGATION TAKEN FOR UNEXPECTED MTG W/FONMIN, PROMISED MTG W/PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG THURS. NOTES US STAFF AIDES TOLD MUST NOT GO OUT ALONE SINCE "PEOPLE MAY NOT BE HAPPY IF THEY FIND OUT YOU ARE AN AMERICAN," THO ACCOMPANYING NEWSMEN WALKED FREELY IN CITY, FOUND NO ANIMOSITY. ADDS MISSION LEAVES FOR LAOS
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SAT (ALSO IN GLOBE). NYDN (AP) NOTES AMERICANS PLEASED W/RECEPTION.

MISSION RECEIVES UNEXPECTEDLY WARM WELCOME AT HANOI, PLEDGES PUT "BITTER PAST BEHIND US" IN MIA TALKS. WELCOME LOW-KEYED, BUT MISSION SURPRISED/PLEASED THAT GREETED BY PHAN HIEN. TALKS OVER NEXT 2 DAYS TO BE INTERMIXED W/TOURS

(UPI, NYT). WU (SUN) DESCRIBES WELCOME, NOTES MISSION WILL GO TO LAOS SUNDAY. QUOTES VIENTIANE GOVT THAT HOPES DISCUSSIONS WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO IMPROVEMENT IN RELS BETW US/LAOS. ADDS MISSION MAY GO TO CAMBODIA, BUT CAMBODIAN AMB IN HANOI/VIENTIANE COULD NOT BE REACHED TO FIND OUT IF SUCH TRIP IS ALSO AIM OF MISSION. UPI REPORTS FROM HANOI THAT VN PLEDGES TRACE MIAS BUT SAYS US HAS COMMITMENT OF NATL HONOR TO AID POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION. UPI BANGKOK NOTES ARRIVAL WOODCOCK MISSION ANNOUNCED IN FOREIGN BROADCASTS BY HANOI, BUT NOT BROADCAST OVER DOMESTIC RADIO.

COALITION 45 RELIGIOUS/PEACE GROUPS GIVES 150,000 DOLS TO VN TO BUILD 100-BED HOSPITAL ON NY LAI MASSACRE SITE. GIFT MADE ON 9TH ANNIVERSARY MASSACRE, COINCIDED W/HANOI ARRIVAL WOODCOCK MISSION (WP SPEC; OLIPHANT, GLOBE).

AT UN WATER RESOURCES CONF, VN APPEALS FOR ALL KINDS TECHNICAL/ECON ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD ECONOMY (REUTER MAR DEL PLATA).

BUTTERFIELD (NYT, EXCERPTED IN SUN) REPORTS HANOI DIS-TRIBUTES COPIES SURPRISINGLY LIBERAL NEW GUIDELINES FOR FON INVESTMENT TO US BUSINESSMEN, RAISING HOPES AMONG SOME OF MAJOR MKT FOR US ENTERPRISE IF PRES CARTER REMOVES EMBARGO. OTHER W BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE DEALT W/VN ARE MORE PESSIMISTIC, MENTION DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING W/HANOI, INCL LACK INFO/BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA/OVERLY TOUGH DEMANDS. MOST THINK PRES WILL AT LEAST PARTIALLY LIFT EMBARGO
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AFTER RETURN WOODCOCK MISSION.

2. CHINA

FROM KAOHSIUNG, JACK DOUGHTY (BALT NA 3/16) OBSERVES THAT LESS US AID FAILS IRK TAIWAN'S CHIEF. NOTES CHIANG CHING-KUO (CCK) CONTINUES HOLD FAST POSITION NO COMPROMISE/NO TALK WITH COMMUNISTS. CCK EXPRESSED HOPE TAIWAN CAN CONTINUE PURCHASE MIL HARDWARE UNDER CREDIT SALES PROGRAM, EMPHASIZED FAITH US CONTINUE ABIDE BY MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND GRATITUDE FOR PAST US MIL/ECON ASST. ADDED WE'VE DONE OUT BEST SUCCEED/BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT, HAVE STOOD UP AS LOYAL ALLY. DOUGHTY BRIEFLY REVIEWS TAIWAN'S ECON PROGRESS OVER YRS.

ACCORDING TO NCNA,PRC'S WHEAT CROP SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY WIDESPREAD DROUGHT. BAD WEATHER ONLY ONE OF PROBLEMS. WHEAT NOT ONLY CROP AFFECTED BUT IS 2ND LARGEST ACREAGE OF ANNUAL GRAIN CROPS- PEASANTS/VARIOUS DEPTS ORGANIZED

SUPPORT ANTI-DROUGHT EFFORTS (UPI HONG KONG, JOC).

PRC SAID PRESENT AGR PROBLEMS ONLY TEMPORARY/FOOD SITUATION
NOT AS BAD AS EARLY '60S NEAR FAMINE (REUTER, PHINQ).

3. THAILAND

RTG TROOPS OVERRUN BIG COMMUNIST BASE IN NE, SEIZED LARGE
QUANTITIES FOOD/MED SUPPLIES (REUTER, PHINQ).

4. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

PM MULDOON, VISITING CANBERRA, SAYS GONZ WOULD DECLARE
200-MI OFFSHORE ECON ZONE BEFORE YR'S END (REUTER CANBERRA).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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5. KOREA

ATLANTA JOURNAL (3/14) CONTENDS CARTER, IN PROJECTING
4-5 YR TIMETABLE ON TOTAL WITHDRAWAL US GROUND FORCES
FROM SK, HAS PROJECTED HIMSELF INTO SECOND PRESIDENTIAL
TERM, SINCE END OF WITHDRAWALS WOULD BE PERIOD BEYOND HIS
FIRST TERM.

6. JAPAN

FROM TOKYO, CORCKER SNOW, JR. (GLOBE) SAYS SERIOUS NUCLEAR
DISPUTE BREWING BETW US AND JAPAN WHICH COULD HAVE MAJOR
IMPACT ON GLOBAL PROLIFERATION NUCLEAR ENERGY/WEAPONRY.
US OPPOSITION JAPAN'S PLAN DEVELOP NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESS-
ING FACILITIES FOR PEACEFUL/DOMESTIC USE LIKELY DOMINATE
CARTER-FUKUDA TALKS NEXT WEEK. SAYS US OFFICIALS DON'T
DOUBT JAPANESE SINCERITY BUT CONCERNED JAPAN MOVE WILL
SET PRECEDENT, THUS CARTER-FUKUDA DECISION "BENCHMARK"
FOR FUTURE NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS. NOTES OCT 28 US POLICY
TURNABOUT AFTER EARLIER APPROVAL OF JAPAN'S PLAN. ADDS
WITH JAPAN IN '73 HAVING PRE-PURCHASED 280 MILLION DOLS
ENRICHED URANIUM FROM US PLANTS OVER NEXT 30 YEARS, CARTER
IN POSITION STIFLE JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANS.

7. INDOCHINA/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

LEWIS (NYT) BELIEVES PRES WILL FIND SECRECY BUREAUCRATIC
HABIT HARD TO CHANGE. NOTES FREEDOM OF INFO CASE RE LAST
4 VOLUMES "PENTAGON PAPERS" HAS GONE ON FOR YRS. SAYS 200
PGS WITHHELD. THINKS IF ANYTHING IN THESE CAN DAMAGE NATL
SECURITY, HAS BEEN ALREADY DONE SINCE VOLUMES WERE IN

PUBLIC RECORD IN PAST; FINDS CASE FOR CONTINUED SECRECY
"FEEBLE" IN LAW/COMMON SENSE. MENTIONS OTHER FOI CASES.
SUGGESTS PRES/ATTY GENL TAKE SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD OPEN
GOVT BY SEEING TO IT "POINTLESS RESISTANCE" TO PUBLIC INFO
ENDED IN SOME EXEMPLARY CASES.
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8. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

ATLANTA JOURNAL (3/13) FEELS ADMIN'S LIFTING BAN ON PASS-
PORT TRAVEL TO VN/NK/CAMBODIA/CUBA "MAKES SENSE." CON-
TENDS TRAVEL RESTRICTION IS NOT VERY EFFECTIVE WEAPON AS
FORM OF ECON WARFARE; AND IF AMCITS' JUDGMENT TO BE
TRUSTED, PROSPECT OF THEIR BEING EXPOSED TO COMMUNIST
PROPAGANDA SHOULDN'T BE ALARMING--"AFTER ALL, THEY CAN
TRAVEL TO COMMUNIST CHINA" AND SOVIET. ADDS THAT ENDING
BAN ALSO MEANS THOSE WHO TRAVEL IN FUTURE WILL INCLUDE AT
LEAST SOME WHO HAVE NOT BEEN HANDPICKED BY THEIR HOSTS.

9. GENERAL

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AT (3/16) TAKES ISSUE WITH ITC'S CALL FOR SHARPLY HIGHER
TARIFFS ON IMPORTED TV RECEIVERS FROM JAPAN AND OTHER
COUNTRIES. ADVISES CARTER REJECT PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASES,
BUT SHOULD ALSO ADVISE JAPANESE THAT, UNLESS THEY
DEMONSTRATE "SOME COMMON-SENSE RESTRAINT" IN THEIR EXPORT
PRACTICES, PRESSURE IN US FOR COUNTERMEASURES WILL GROW.
VANCE

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